

Q. # 1555
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Evidentiary Document # 5365.

SWORN STATEMENT of Mr. RUDOLF BASIL WILSON,
Wireless Operator, Civil Wireless Station,
Bangalore Cantonment;

I was employed as a wireless operator in Port Blair since 1936. We were captured by the Japanese on 23 March 1942 and kept prisoners on the island for eight months.

Two weeks after our capture, in Port Blair, Mr. A.C. Bird, Commercial Officer and personal assistant to the Chief Commissioner, was categorised as a spy by the Japanese. He was taken out, tortured and eventually beheaded in public on Aberdeen. I did not witness this as I was kept on Ross Island, but people connected with the convict establishment on the Andamans will possibly be able to give details of this incident.

On 20th November 1942 eighteen of us were taken by the Japanese in the hatch of the KUNITSU MARU to Rangoon. This party included various Govt. officials among whom was the Chief Commissioner, Mr. C.F. WATERFALL. We reached Rangoon on 22nd November 1942 and taken straight to the Central Jail. We were confined in cells meant for solitary confinement but two were kept in each cell. After two days of confinement in this cell we were removed to the wing for British prisoners. During the time that we were in the solitary cells most of us were beaten up by the Japanese guards. The Chief Commissioner and, I think, the padre of the Church of England, Rev. Kemp who were in the cell next but one to mine were the persons most severely beaten. The beatings were due to the fact that we did not understand what the guards wanted us to do, and which, I later learnt, was that we should bow to them when we met them. The worst beatings were in connection with the forms that we were made to fill in giving details of our names, occupations, state of mind at the time of capture etc. The Japanese guard responsible for the beatings while we were in the solitary cells was killed in a subsequent air raid on Rangoon.

After our removal to the British wing we were kept in cells, originally intended for 28 convicts, but which invariably contained 40 or more prisoners of war. The sanitary arrangements were most unhygienic and we had to clean our lavatories ourselves.

While I was in Rangoon Jail, I was not beaten, but beatings for others were daily features. Of these I can particularly remember cases of Maj. Loring, Capt. Mason, Brigadier Hobson and one Mr. Monin, a prisoner of over 60 and who is now in the B.M.H., Bangalore.

One Japanese guard in particular, whose name I do not know but who was known as the "Moulmein Terror" was the worst at this jail. He was a short, puny individual and whenever there was an air raid, which was frequent, Mason and Loring would be taken out of the jail compound gate and beaten up by the "Moulmein Terror". They were either slapped, fisted or beaten with the butts of rifles.

Two other guards, who were in charge of the garden party one by name MOTO and another known among us as "The Admiral", indulged in considerable ill-treatment of prisoners. They usually adopted the practice of kicking with ammunition boots on the shins or private parts of prisoners. Most of the punishments were inflicted as the result of the prisoners failing to understand orders given rapidly in the Japanese language. "The Admiral" was so named by us because he had been transferred from the Jap Navy to the Army.

Beatings with rifle butts and ammunition boots took place regularly every day but I cannot remember any specific dates on which any particular prisoner was thus beaten up. The Japanese guards allotted punishment on a "mutual responsibility" basis. That is to say for any misdemeanour committed by anybody, the actual individual concerned as well as the senior officer, Brigadier Hobson, would be punished.

On two occasions the Japanese guard commander, when going round after lights out discovered a faint glow of burning embers in the cook-house. Immediately Brig Hobson was called out and beaten. I did not see the beating but heard the sounds. Then the cook-house staff (prisoners) were called out and in the presence of Brig. Hobson, made to fall in ranks facing each other and made to slap each other hard, for a considerable length of time. The guard involved in these instances was known as "MUTTY" due to his stooping gait.

Mr. Monin was severely beaten by MOTO, in my presence. The reason for this was that when Monin passed MOTO, his bow was not observed by MOTO, who presuming that MONIN did not bow when he came into the jail compound, beat him. Monin was also kicked. It was a severe beating for an average young man and Monin was half carried and half dragged up to his cell in a state of semi-collapse.

The worst beatings were given to new prisoners arriving in jail. These, as they arrived, were kept in solitary confinement upwards of three weeks at a time, during which time they were frequently beaten up, the buckle end of a belt and the steel shaft of a golf club being the chief weapons. I have seen the guard known as the "Poulmein Terror" going towards the solitary cells with a golf club. Five American priests - R. Newman, Fathers O'Reilly, O'Sullivan, Demarais and Lucey - who were thus confined in solitary cells and beaten up have told us of instances of British Airmen prisoners being starved and beaten up severely.

Deaths among prisoners in the Rangoon Jail were frequent, due mostly to malnutrition and lack of medical facilities. Cpl. Sykes, Pte. Pollet, Pte. Abrahamson of the Duke of Wellingtons, Pte. Holdsworth of the West Yorks and Pte. Sheard of the NOYLLIS were a few that I can remember. I think Pte. Kemp, mentioned earlier, who is now in Yercaud, had a list of prisoners who died in Rangoon jail during the period that I was there. Beri beri and dysentery were the cause of most deaths.

The doctors who may be able to give fuller detail are Lt.Col. Mackenzie, R.A.M.C., Maj. Macleod, I.M.S., Dr. MacDonald, I.M.D. and Dr. Swingler, I.M.D. Dr. MacDonald is now at B.M.H., Bangalore, while Dr. Swingler, I understand, is at Shillong. The only medicine available as far as I can remember were Vitamin B tablets for beri beri, bone charcoal for dysentery and diarrhoea and H2S for skin diseases.

There were also cases of prisoners of war who were taken for experimental purposes and used as guinea pigs. I have heard of cases of such prisoners being injected with Menge germs among other germs. This, however, was before I reached Rangoon Jail and I was told this by several prisoners. One of such prisoners, I think, is Col. Devoto, R.A.C.

Apart from this I have heard of Group Captain Moore who was starved and ill-treated in the solitary cells for refusing to disclose information desired by the Japs.

I was taken to Tavoy on 16th April 1943 where I was kept in an internment camp. Here I was beaten up a number of times three of which I can remember. Once it was for not being able to understand an order given in Japanese by Cpl. OKAMOTO who was in charge of the saw-mill in the camp. Okamoto on this occasion beat me with a flat piece of wood all over the body. On another occasion I was beaten up by the N.C.O. of the camp, HITAHARA. This was because at a gramophone concert where I was detailed to play a number of records, I played one more than the number put to the programme. HITAHARA struck me with his closed fist on the face a number of times. The third beating was also by HITAHARA for not bowing to him. He commenced with his fists and later resorted to his belt. I and another prisoner - MANNIN - were then made to kneel in front of the guard room. A bamboo stick 2 inches in diameter, was then placed in the hollow behind the knees and we were made to sit back on our heels for about two hours, after which we had to rise and stand to attention for another two hours.

Dr. Swingler mentioned earlier, and one Mrs. Childers, widow of Lt.Col. Childers, were given solitary confinements for 3 months and frequently beaten when in solitary confinement. This was done by a three star private by name TATE. TATE was the individual responsible for most of the ill-treatment of prisoners in Tavoy camp from Jan. 44 to Aug 45. He was the interpreter of the camp but appeared to have extraordinary powers and virtually ran the camp. Mrs. Childers received particularly bad treatment from TATE. With the advent of TATE an absolute reign of terror prevailed.

Mr. Forbes Mitchell, his wife and four year old son, at present staying in 5 Curley Street, Richmond Town, Bangalore Cantt., received considerable ill-treatment at the hands of TATE. TATE was responsible for deciding on diet of sick prisoners and due to his dislike of Mitchell refused to allow any special sick diet being given to Mitchell's son, who was extremely weak and under-nourished.

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There was a Mrs. Tun Hla Oung, wife of Capt. Tun Hla Oung who was brought down from Paymye to Tavoy camp. She was an English-~~born~~ *woman* aged about 26, and was subjected to an indecent assault by one of the camp governors. This particular governor was in command previous to the individual who was governor at the time of our release. I do not know the details of this incident but I have heard that TAITE aided the governor in his assault on Mrs. Tun Hla Oung.

In Tavoy food deteriorated to such an extent that we were obliged to eat dogs, rats and snakes.

Two other wireless operators, who were in Rangoon Jail and Tavoy camp with me and who might be able to furnish more information, are R.C. ALLISON, 4 Alexander Street, Richmond Town, and R.T. WIGGINS, 16 Wood Street, Bangalore Cantt.

Read over and approved as a correct record.

Bangalore
23 Feb. 46.

(Signed) RUDOLF BASIL WILSON.

The above sworn statement of Mr. Rudolf Basil Wilson, consisting of 3 pages was recorded by me and read over to him on 23 Feb. 46 and approved by him as a correct record.

(Signed) Capt. C. Thomas
Staff Captain, Legal,
H.Q., Bangalore Area.

I certify that the above is the true copy of the statement made by R.B. WILSON.

(Signed) ?
Capt., Investigator, 17 W.C.I.T.
Detailed by C-in-C ALFSEA.

ハ、コノア合點區、民間無線電信局、無線電技師

「ビルド、ビルド、ウイリス」氏、宣稱、陳述書

私ハ一九三六以來「ボート、ブリー」ニ於テ無線電技師トシテ雇
ハレテキタ。吾ハ一九四二年三月二十三日日本軍ニ捕ヘラレ、今月
間同島ニ捕虜トナツテキタ。

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吾々ハ一九四三年十一月二十三日ニ「ラングーン」ニ到着シ直チニ中
央監獄ニ連テ行カレタ。吾々ハ独房用、監房ニ監禁サ
レタガ、二名宛各監房ニ收容サレタ。コ、監房ニ二日間監
禁サレタヲ吾々ハ「イギリス」捕虜用トシ、軍需部ヘ移サレ
タ。独房ニ居タ間、吾々、多クハ日本監視兵ニ毆ラレタ。

事務長ト多分英國使會牧師「ケン」師ハ私ノカラツ
置置ヲ隣リ、監房ニ居タガ最モヒドク打ツタ人連デアツタ。

毆ラレタ譯ハ吾々が監視兵、吾々ニセヨウト要求シタコトヲ我々
ガ理解シナカッタカラデ、ソレハ後ニ分ツタトコロガ、吾々ハ彼
ヲニム達フト彼ヲニオ評儀セネバナラヌコトダツタ。一番ヒドイ
毆打ハ、吾々が名前、職業、捕虜ニナツタ時、心境等、詳細ヲ
記入サセシタ書式ニ関シテデアツタ。――

英國人用ノ軍需部ニ移動サレタ後吾々ハ監房ニ收容サレタガ、
ハ元罪人ニテ人名用トシテ、モ、デアツタガ、イツモ四十人以上モノ
戦士係房ガ收容サレタ。衛生設備、最モ非衛生的
ナリ吾々ハ便所ヲ自分テ清掃セネバナラヌコトダツタ。

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特ニ一人ハ本監視兵、ソノ名前ハ私ハ知ラナイガ「ムルキン」
恐怖トシテ知ラレタ事ダツタガソレハコノ監獄デ一番重キタ。
彼ハ吾々、全ク微弱ナ人間デアツテ、空襲ガアル度毎ニ「メイ
ソン」ト「ローリング」ハ監獄内門カラ引出サレテ「ムルキン」
恐怖ニ打タレタ。彼等ハ平手デ打タレカ拳骨又ハ銃ノ
床尾、イザレカデ打タレタ。

裏園、一團ヲ担任シ居タ二名、監視兵が居リ人ハ「モト」ト
云フ名デ他、人ハ吾々問テ「提督」トシテ通シ居タガ、

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相當俘虜ノ虐待ヲ決ニシタ。彼等ハ普通彈藥靴^履者^ノ註^ス「ゴム長靴」デ俘虜ノ脛ヤ陰部ヲ蹴ルト云フヤリヲ採用シタ。懲罰^ノ多クハ早口ニ日本語ヲ發セラレタ命令ヲ俘虜ガ了解出来ナイ結果科セラレタモノデア^ル。――

銃^ノ台尻ヤ彈藥靴デ改ルコトハ定期的ニ毎日起ツタガ然^レト、俘虜ガ何時改^メラレタカト云フ特定^ノ日時^ノ記憶^シテ居^テイ^ル。

日本ノ監視兵ハ懲罰ヲ「連帶責任制」ニ基^キテ科^スシタ。

夫レトス^ルハ即チ何人ニヨツテ犯^スレタ如何ナル非行ニ對^シテモソノ本人ト共ニ上^ニ出^タル「ホアソン」代將モ罰セラレ^ルデア^ルタ。

二面ニ亙^リ日本ノ監視隊長カ消燈後巡^ル常ノ際調理場デ燃^レエサシノ弱^イ光ヲ發見^シタ。即刻「ホアソン」代將ハ呼^ビ出^サレテ改^メ打^サレタ。私ハ打ツトコロハ見^エカツタガソノ音ヲ聞^イタ。ソレカラ調理場係員(俘虜)ガ呼^ビ出^サレテ「ホアソン」代將ノ面前デ互ニ向^ヒ合^フテ列^バセラレ相當時間互ニヒトク平手打^ラサセラレタ。之^ノ外ノ場合ニ關係^シタ監視兵ハ彼ノ屈^ンガガキ方カラシテ「ハムビー」ト云^フテ居^タ用^ガデア^ルタ。

(次頁ニ續^ク)

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